

THE NEWS HERALD

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DEATHS
Week of June 29-July 5

**Margaret Jean Kral
1946-2021**
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Thursday, July 1 at 11:30 a.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Susan Cragun
1938-2021**
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, July 2 at 10 a.m. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park.

**Phillis R. White
1958-2021**
Funeral service were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, July 2 at 6 p.m.

**Carlos Ramos
1960-2021**
A graveside service took place at Grant Memorial Park, Marion, on Friday, July 2 at 2 p.m.

**Louis L. Luera, Sr.
1930-2021**
The family will host a private service to celebrate Luera's life. Inurnment will follow at Grant Memorial Park.

**Norma Jeanne Johnson
1934-2021**
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Thursday, July 8 at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory, Marion.

**Carolyn F. Endsley
1936-2021**
The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday, July 9, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, North Chapel. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Carolyn's life will begin at 12 noon. Pastor Jim Sonnefield will be officiating with burial taking place at Van Buren Cemetery.

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Marion celebrates July 4th at Matter Park

By Sean Douglas

After a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Matter Park was brimming with people, music, and a festive spirit as Marion held it's Fourth of July celebration this past Saturday.

Hundreds of people from Marion and the surrounding communities gathered in the park over the course of five hours, culminating with a brilliant fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day.

But even more importantly, it was another example of a continued return to normalcy in 2021.

"I love when we can bring the community together and bring it to Matter Park," Executive Director Julie Fauser said. "To have the live entertainment and the food vendors, it feels good. It feels right." "I'm glad people felt safe enough and good enough, particularly after the year we had last year with COVID," Fauser continued. "We are pretty mindful of that still, but being outside, it's just nice to see people again. We know there is a lot of people down here and people will be watching the

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A big American flag was displayed over the stage at Matter Park. One of the many patriotic features on the Fourth of

fireworks from the Highland Bridge and up from the Bypass. We're happy." Along with the fireworks, Matter Park and the Gardens provided many more attractions throughout the evening. There were a variety of food and other vendors on the grounds, including Pappies Smokehouse and Lunch Box, Obi's BBQ, Monroe's Big Dog Diner, Git R. Done Concessions, The Eis

Wagon, Stever's Kettle and Carmel Corn, and many more.

Furthermore, Fun Services provided inflatables for the younger crowd, giving children a chance to take part in fun, family-based entertainment through the night's festivities.

Two local bands – Marion-based group The Italics and Friend and Muncie-based Cook and Belle – provided a variety of classi-

July in Marion. Photo by Sean Douglas

cal tunes and original music, setting the mood for the entire evening. Additional music was provided by Tony, Marion's DJ. And finally, the fireworks, which began at 10 p.m., put a cap on the evening's activities, delighting all in attendance — young and old alike.

On a day dedicated to the celebration of the birthday of the United States, the city of Marion celebrated in

style. The return of Fourth of July festivities in Matter Park was a welcome change after a tumultuous year, and Fauser was proud to be able to provide holiday festivities on its beautiful grounds.

"We're blessed not just to have the Gardens, but Matter Park to showcase and have the community come out," Fauser said. "To me, it's a magical environment."

Van Buren hosts Tractor Pull

By Sean Douglas

As part of Van Buren's Fourth of July weekend festivities, the Indiana Garden Tractor Pullers Association (IGTPA) held its second annual holiday tractor pull at the Van Buren Fire Department. People from around the Van Buren community competed for cash prizes in a competitive, yet family friendly environment.

The Fourth of July tractor pull is one of three held at the Van Buren Fire Station, according to event coordinator Andy Korporal. This tractor pull featured eight



One of the tractors in action at the Van Buren Fire Department over the weekend. Photo by Sean Douglas

Salvation Army names new Corp Officer

By Ed Breen

A 23-year-old recent graduate of the Salvation Army training program has been named Corps Officer of the Army's Citadel in Marion. Lieut. Michaela Lendt, a native of Boone, Iowa, received her first commission at ceremonies in Chicago last month as was told that she would be coming to Marion. She was one of 20 new officers and she said a part of the graduation ritual is to be told at the ceremony where the initial assignment will be.

She is both administrator

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